

Remarks

The previous amendment was as objected to as introducing new matter. The specification has been amended to put it into its original form. Therefore, Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description. In particular, the Examiner objects to the phrase "number average molecular weights". That phrase has been canceled from the claims.

Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

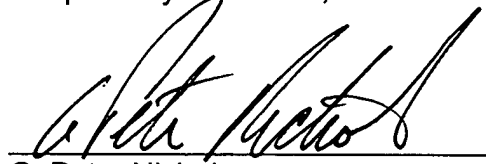
Claims 1-16 were deemed to be allowable over the art of record and claims 1-11 and 14 should be considered allowable since the 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been obviated.

Claims 17-24 were rejected as being unpatentable over Sumi or Miyamoto in combination with Ray-Chaudhuri. Applicants respectfully traverse. None of the cited art teaches or suggests the use of a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) prepared from poly(ethylene oxide) resins having a molecular weight from about 100,000 g/mol to about 8,000,000 g/mol. Therefore, the cited references cannot render unpatentable these presently rejected claims, each of which requires this feature.

Appl. No. 09/595,672
Response Dated: **September 23, 2003**
Reply to Office Action of May 28, 2003

If, for any reason, the Examiner feels that the above amendments and remarks do not put the claims in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney can be reached at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Peter Nichols", written over a horizontal line.

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